

of the mine may be given the benefit of the ventilation system to sustain any that may be yet living and to make possible an early expiration of these workings.

The American miners of the town have been placed in charge of the relief work, but the Italians and other foreigners are working under them most faithfully. It is impossible for a man to remain long in the depths of the mine, and the rescue forces are divided to work in relays, with frequent reliefs. Many of the relief party have already become exhausted and been sent to the surface.

The mines are owned and operated by the Consolidation Coal Company, of Baltimore. General offices are located in Baltimore and the operating offices are located in Fairmont and Clarksburg, W. Va.; Somerset, Pa., and Cumberland, Md. Clarence W. Watson, of Baltimore, is president.

Monongah is a mining town in Marion county, W. Va., about six miles northwest of Fairmont. It has a population of 6,000, most of whom are foreigners, although there is a larger proportion of American miners in this district than in most of the other bituminous fields.

Along the hills, far back from the main opening on mine No. 8, there are a number of openings into the mine, and to these hundreds of relatives and friends of the entombed men frantically rushed, in the vain hope that their loved ones might find escape through these channels or that they might be more readily reached and released. So far as known, however, not a single man escaped this way, and the would-be rescuers are helpless at these points, for out of each entry there is pouring a volume of poisonous gas which no human being can face for more than a few minutes at a time.

Pathetic Scenes Everywhere.
The scenes around about the entries to the mines and throughout the town are even more pathetic and heartrending than those which usually attend a mine disaster because of a larger proportion of Americans and Americanized foreigners than are usually found in a purely mining settlement.

Wives and mothers and sweethearts, together with children and members of the stronger sex, move from place to place, vainly seeking information and making no attempt to conceal the grief that overwhelms them. But little news can be given them, and such as they do get is in the form of indications to hope that any one in the mine has survived the explosion and the suffocating gas that immediately thereafter filled the mine.

From time to time there comes word from the rescuers in the mine that "bodies" have been found at one place or another, and in nearly every instance it is also stated that the bodies are either terribly torn and mangled or burned and blackened.

Gordons Coffins for All.

At 11 o'clock to-night the list of employees of mine No. 6 and No. 8, at Monongah, had been compiled, showing that 350 were in the two mines when the explosion occurred. Of these 350 have been brought to the surface dead and live, escaped through the shafts. The latter five are in the miners' hospital here, with serious injuries. Neither work has been opened to the relief workings, and no indications are that a majority, if not all, caught in the mine are dead.

Disaster Due to Black Damp.
It is reported here that nine officers have ordered six coffins shipped to Monongah as soon as mine of Clarence W. Watson, of Baltimore, president of the Consolidation Coal Company, at Parkersburg, W. Va., when the explosion occurred, and chartered a special train to bring him to the scene.

There is much speculation as to the cause of the explosion, but the most generally accepted theory is that it resulted from black damp. It is believed that a miner attempted to set off a blast, which blew out and ignited an accumulation of this deadly gas, and that this in turn ignited the coal dust, a highly inflammable substance, found in greater or less quantity in all West Virginia mines. However, all explanations of the cause of the explosion are in the hands of the experts, and it is not yet established in which mine it originated.

THIS THE LAST DAY

Unless Citizens Pay Poll Tax They Cannot Vote in Election.

According to Chief Justice Walter Chilton of the Supreme Court, who has taken into the law, the time for the payment of the poll tax in order to vote in the election expires to-day. The election will be held June 20th. The law says that the poll tax must be paid "six months prior to the day of election," which would close the books at 6 o'clock to-day.

Word to this effect has been passed around, and there will be an unusual rush this morning, Saturday, to pay a half-day at the City Hall. Sunday does not count.

MR. WHITE'S POSITION

Shows Where He Stands on the Question of Citizens.

Councilman William L. White's position on the Dabney ordinance has not been clearly understood by some, and

shows where he stands on the question of citizens. White, who has taken into the law, the time for the payment of the poll tax in order to vote in the election expires to-day. The election will be held June 20th. The law says that the poll tax must be paid "six months prior to the day of election," which would close the books at 6 o'clock to-day.

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Xmas Novelties.



Hats, Scarfs, Mufflers, Jewelry, Waistcoats, Full Dress Suits, Imported and American Silk Handkerchiefs, Hosiery, Underwear, Raincoats, Gloves, Canes, Umbrellas, Suit Cases, Club Bags, Toilet Cases, etc.

Everything for Men and Boys dress, adornment luxury and convenience.

We put these up in fancy Xmas boxes for you and deliver them whenever and wherever you say.

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The Practical Sort.



A favorite--our new Winter Business Suit at \$20. Two or three buttons, as you fancy.

All the new quirks in cuffs, lapels, pockets, collar, cut and make.

It is true economy when you buy for \$20 to \$35 that which you've been paying \$40 to \$60 for.

This for the tailorites to consider.

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